


REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments to the claims and specification prior to a first examination of the Application on its merits. Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1 through 53 will be pending in this Application.

Applicant believes that the appropriate fees are included herewith. However, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees or to credit any overpayments thereto.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If it would advance the prosecution of this Application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: January 23, 2004

Anthony G. Fussner
Reg. No. 47,582
Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
7700 Bonhomme, Suite 400
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
314-726-7500 (telephone)
314-726-7501 (facsimile)